PAPA HAS BEEN GONE A LONG TIME TODAY.

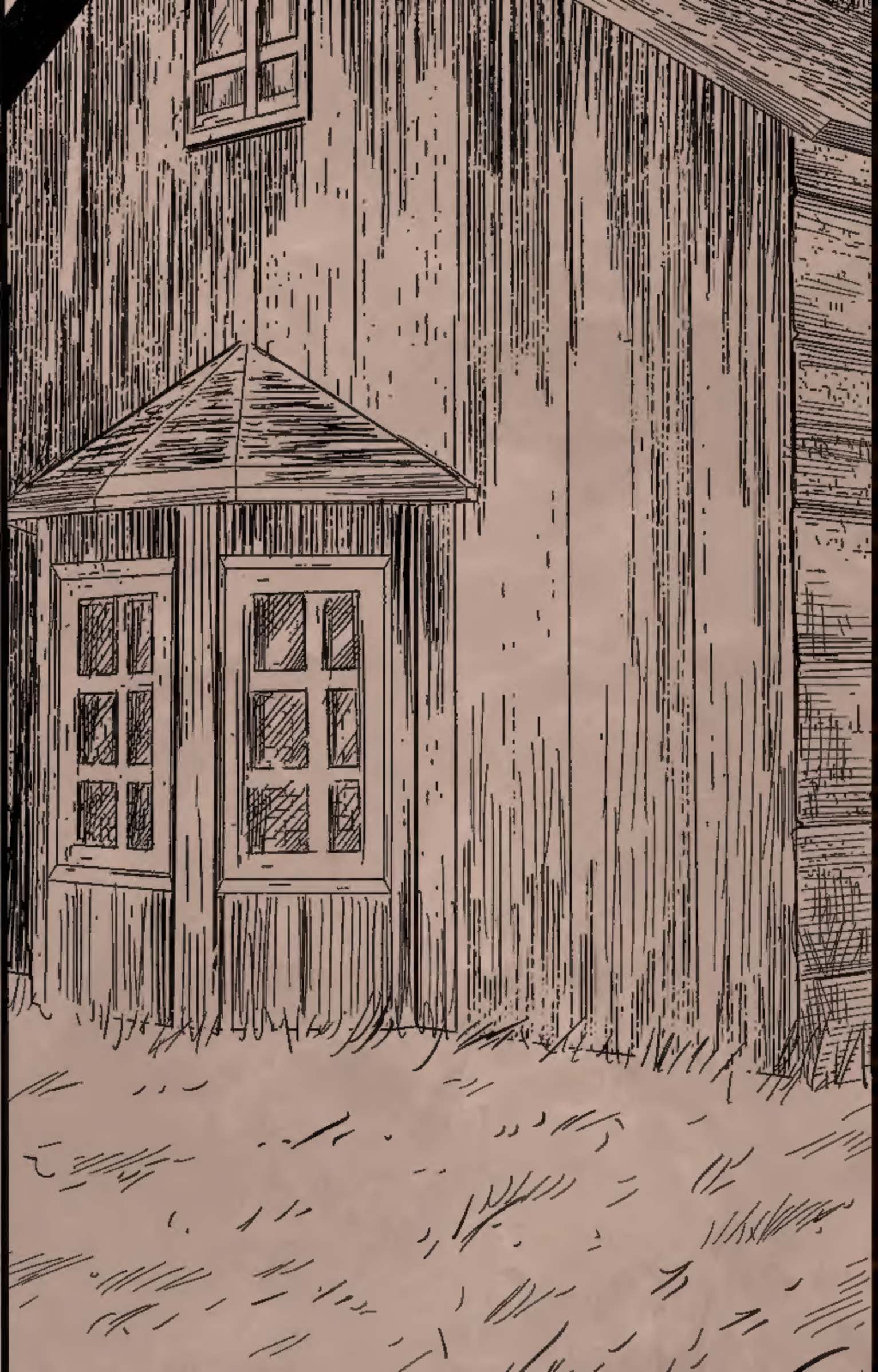
OUT IN THE WOODS.

remember ii.

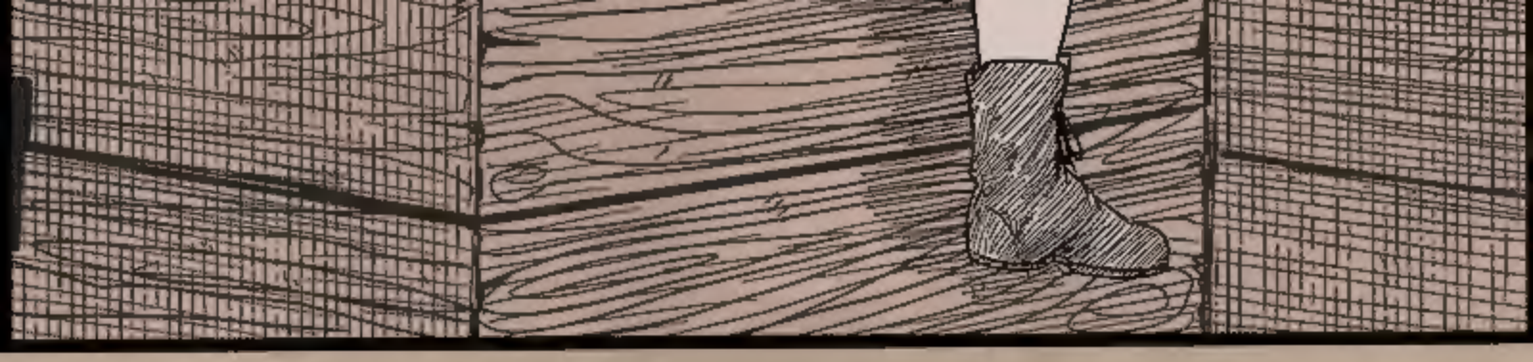
HE HAS BEEN
HUNTING DEER

AGAIN.

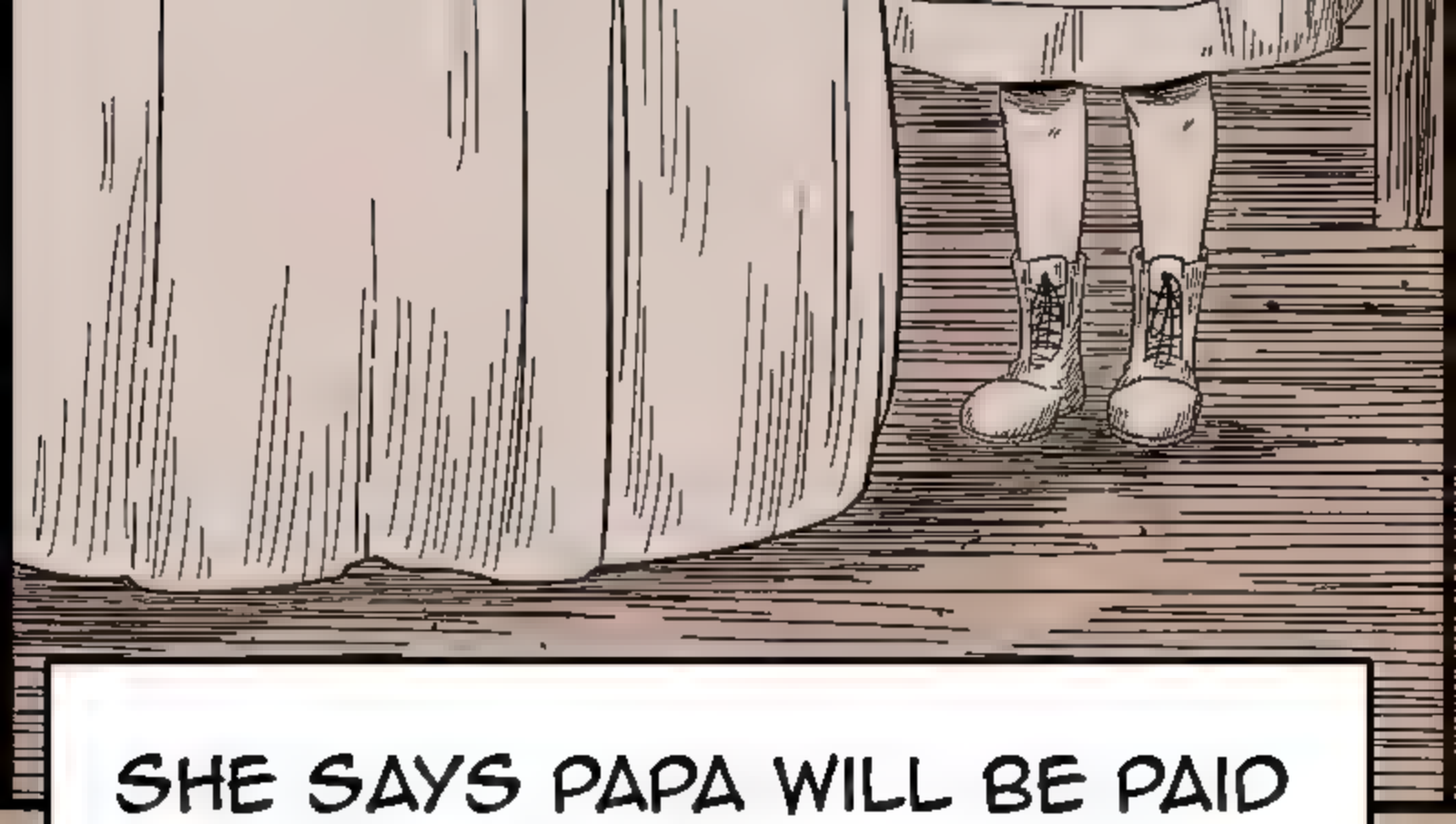
I WISH HE WAS HOME MORE OFTEN.



I DO WAIT FOR HIM,
EVERY EVENING.



MAMA SAYS THAT THE VERY RICH MAN WHO LIVES ON THE HILL HAS HIRED PAPA AND HIS FRIENDS TO CATCH ANIMALS FROM THE FOREST.



SHE SAYS PAPA WILL BE PAID PLENTY OF MONEY.

HE IS A VERY IMPORTANT MAN, WHO IS GOING TO THROW A PARTY FOR THE WHOLE TOWN.

PAPA TOLD ME THE RICH MAN SAW A PAINTING BY THAT MINISTER, MISTER HICKS.

IT IS CALLED "THE PEACABLE KINGDOM."

IN IT, THE CHRIST CHILD IS STANDING WITH MANY ANIMALS AROUND HIM, ALL OF THEM QUITE TAME.

PAPA SAYS THE RICH MAN LIKES THAT IDEA AND WISHES TO HAVE THE SAME FOR HIS PARTY.

THEY TOLD ME THESE WILL

THEY TOLD ME THERE WILL BE A SORT OF SPINNING THING TO RIDE UPON, WITH CARVED ANIMALS FOR SEATS.

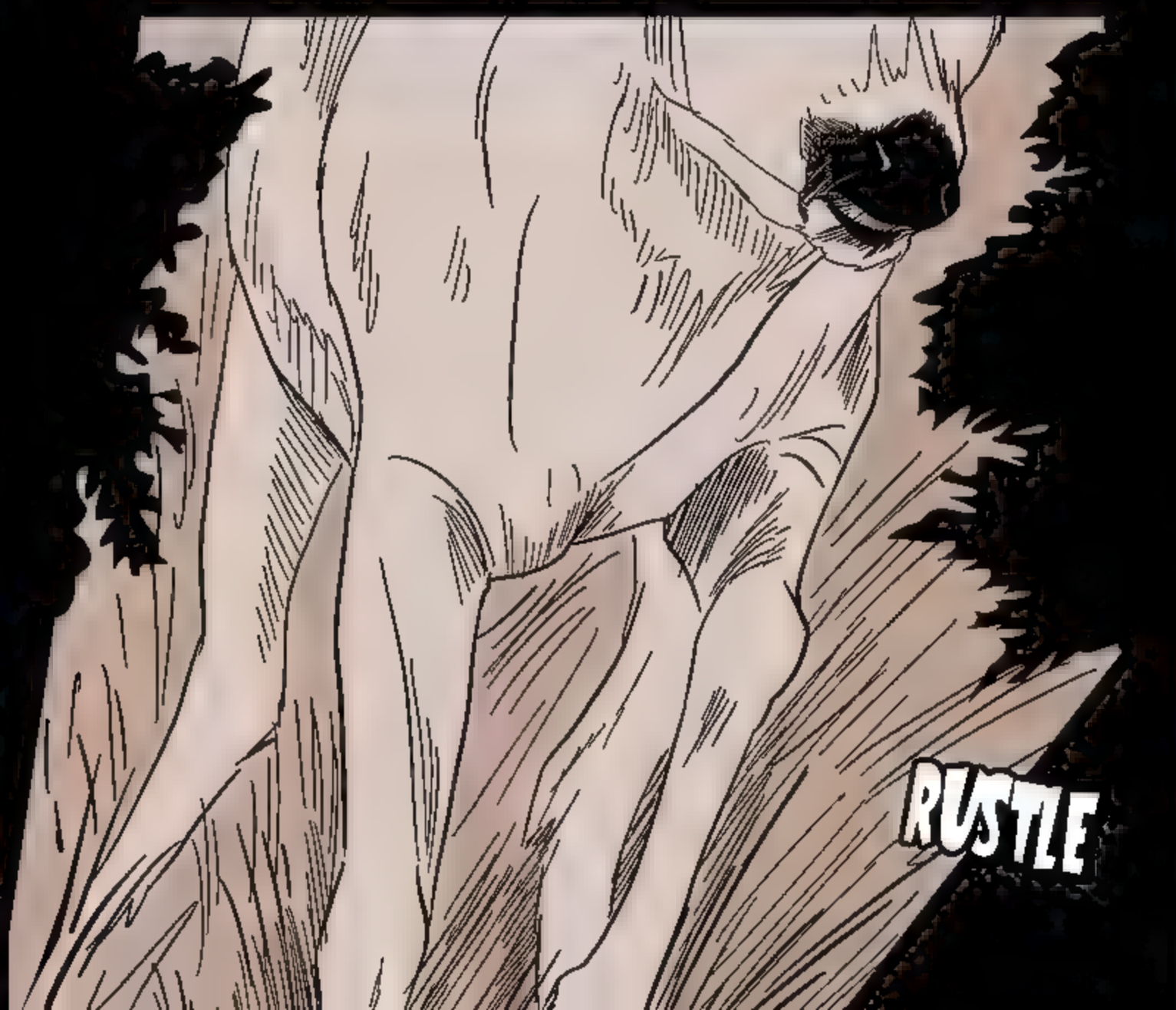
BUT ALSO, THERE WILL BE TAME WILD CREATURES THAT WILL STAND UPON IT AS WELL, AND LET YOU PET THEM.

I WOULD LIKE TO PET A DEER, OR EVEN RIDE ON ITS BACK.

THMP
THMP
KRSSSH

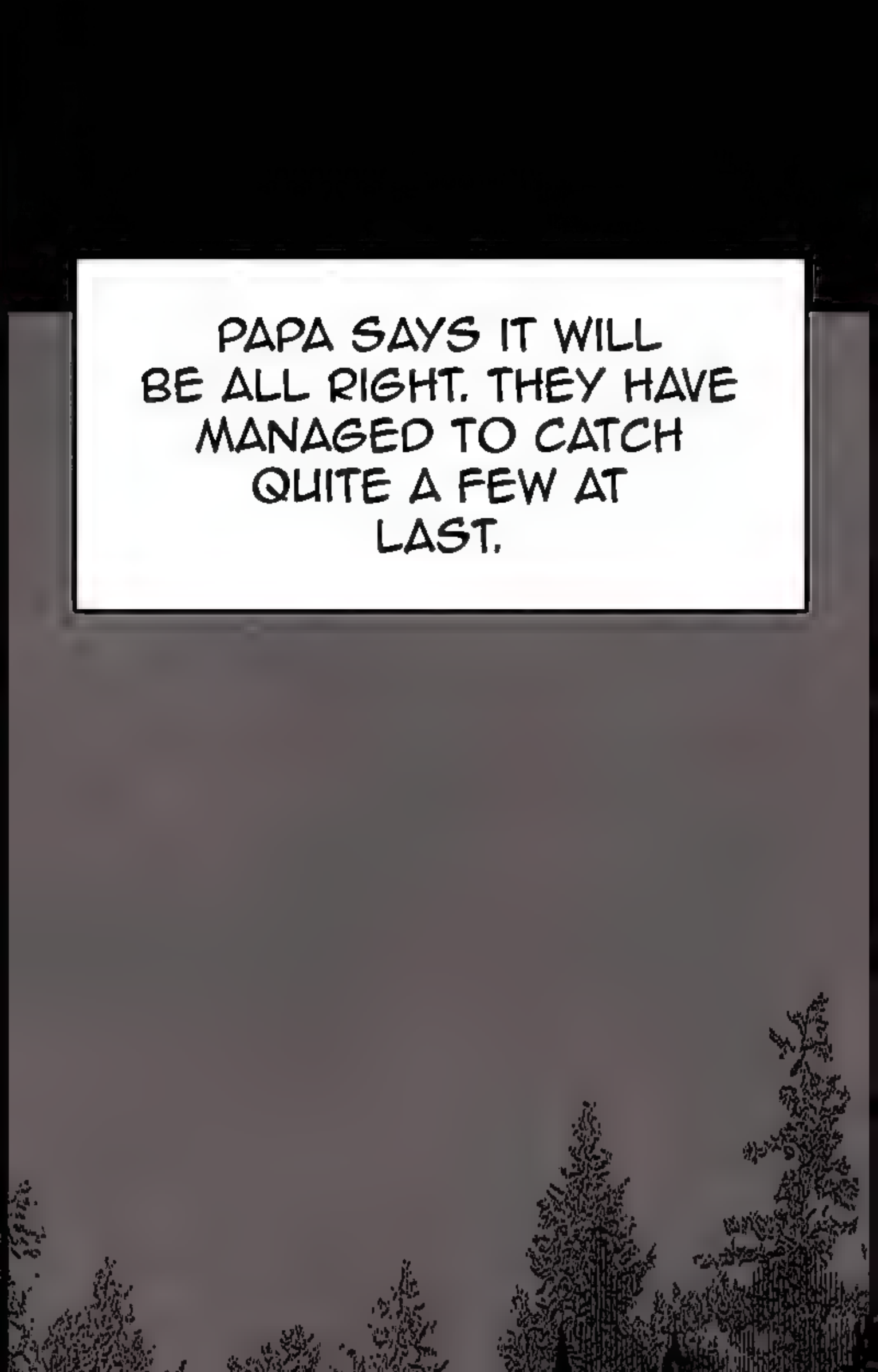
RUSTLE

HOWEVER, PAPA SAYS ANIMALS ARE HARDER TO CATCH IF YOU DON'T PLAN TO EAT THEM.

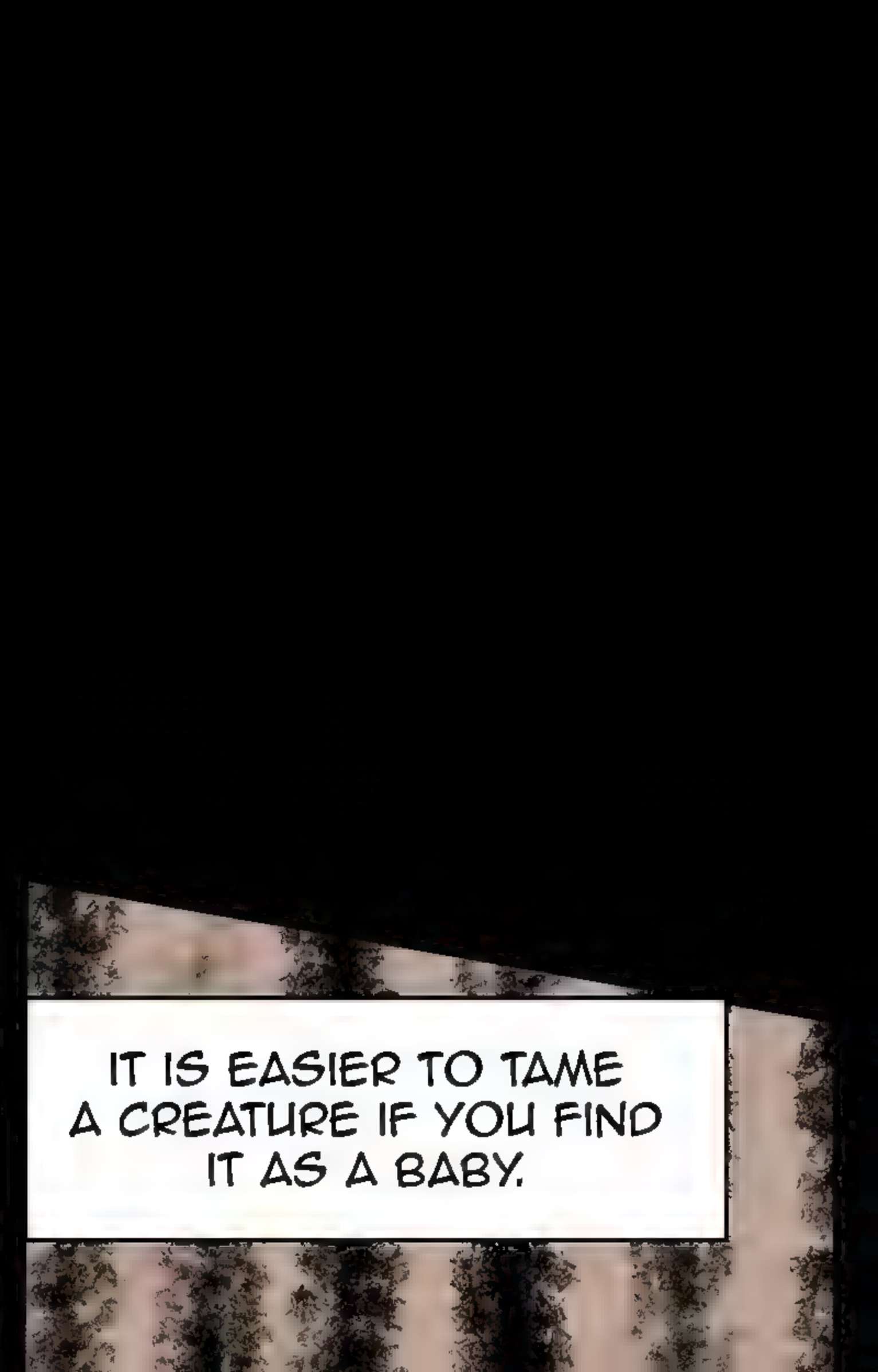

RUSTLE

HE SAYS THEY MUSTN'T HURT THEM AT ALL, BUT ONLY CATCH THEM ALIVE.

IT IS VERY DIFFICULT TO DO, I IMAGINE.


PAPA SAYS IT WILL BE ALL RIGHT. THEY HAVE MANAGED TO CATCH QUITE A FEW AT LAST.

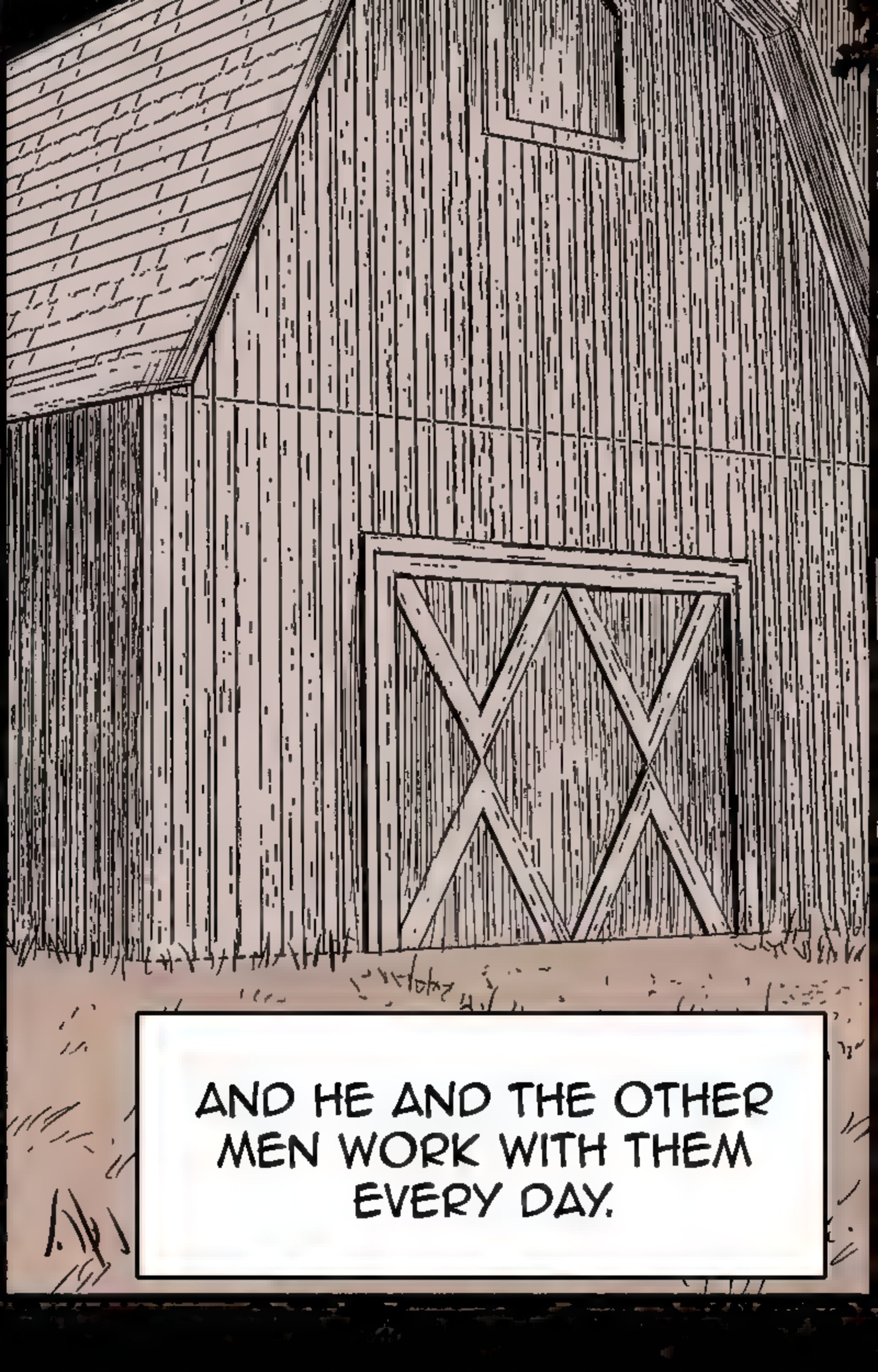
BUT CATCHING THEM IS NOT THE HARDEST PART, HE SAYS.

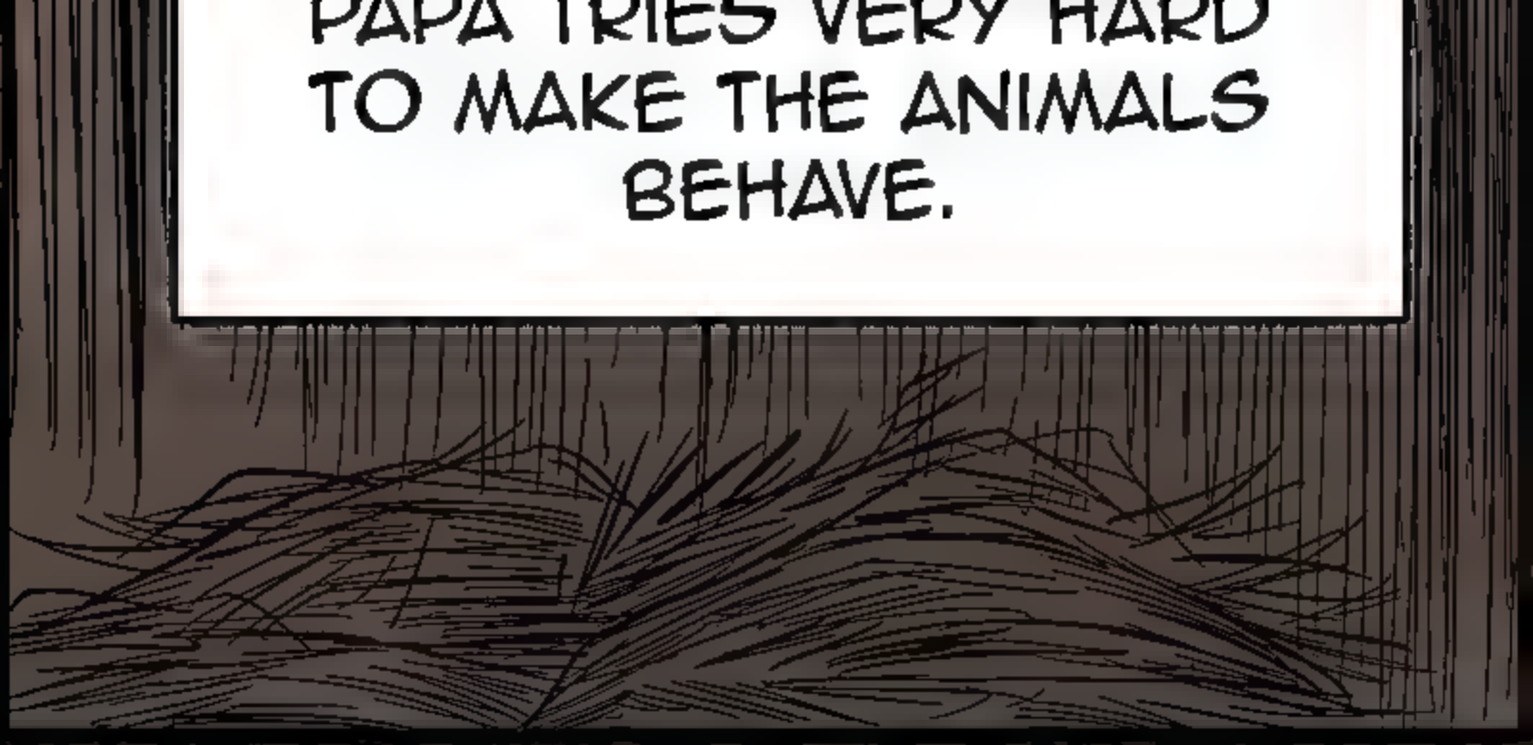

IT IS EASIER TO TAME A CREATURE IF YOU FIND IT AS A BABY.

IT IS MUCH HARDER TO DO WHEN THEY ARE GROWN.

PAPA COMES IN LATE MOST NIGHTS NOW.

HE HAS SHUT THE ANIMALS UP IN THE BIG BARN.


AND HE AND THE OTHER MEN WORK WITH THEM EVERY DAY.



BUT THEY WILL

BUT THEY WILL NOT OBEY.

NOR WILL THEY STAND STILL AS THEY ARE SUPPOSED TO DO.

I HAVE PEEPED INTO THE WINDOW SOMETIMES, WHILE PAPA WORKS.

I THINK THE ANIMALS ARE SCARED.

I WISH THEY WOULD DO AS THEY ARE TOLD.

MAMA SAYS WE MUST BE PATIENT.

AND THAT THESE THINGS

CANNOT BE RUSHED.

BUT I HAVE HEARD PAPA'S FRIENDS TALKING WHEN THEY COME TO VISIT.

THEY SAY THE RICH MAN IS IMPATIENT.

HE WANTS THE PARTY TO HAPPEN VERY SOON.

I AM NOT ALLOWED IN
THE BARN ANYMORE, AS

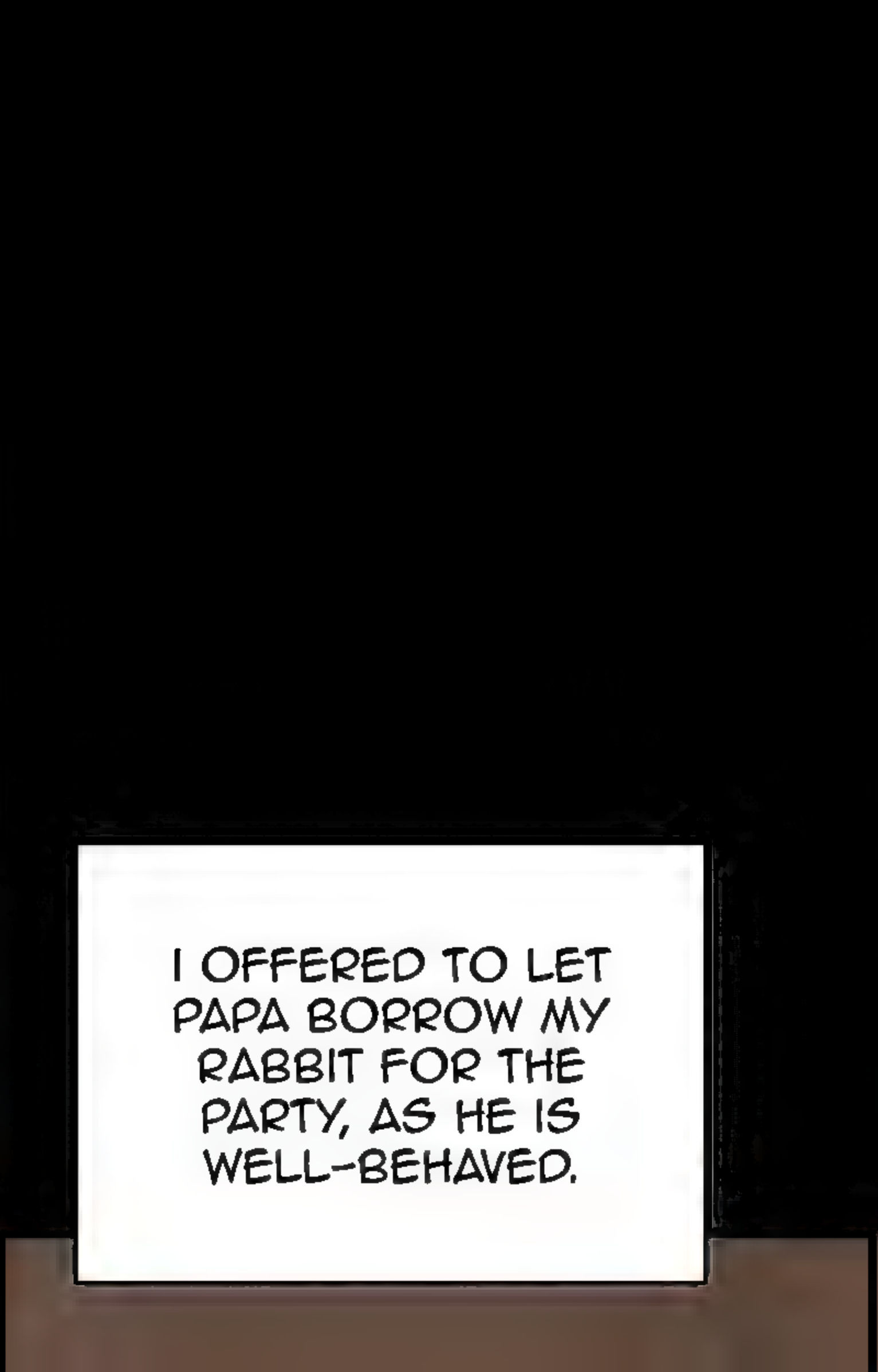
PAPA FEARS THE ANIMALS WILL HURT ME.

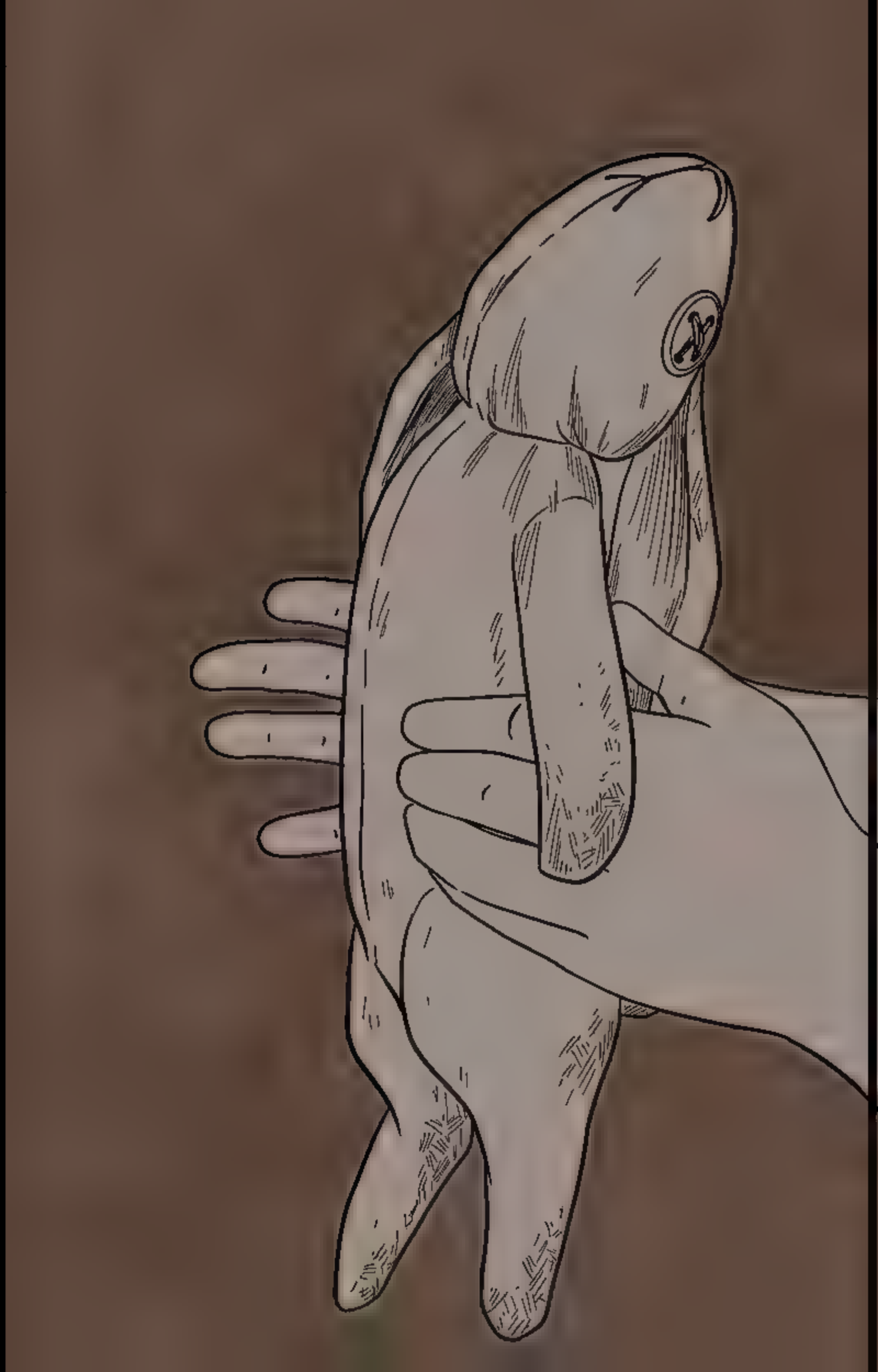
PAPA IS WORKING SO HARD LATELY.

WHEN HE COMES HOME,
HE IS OFTEN TIRED.

I WORRY ABOUT IT.

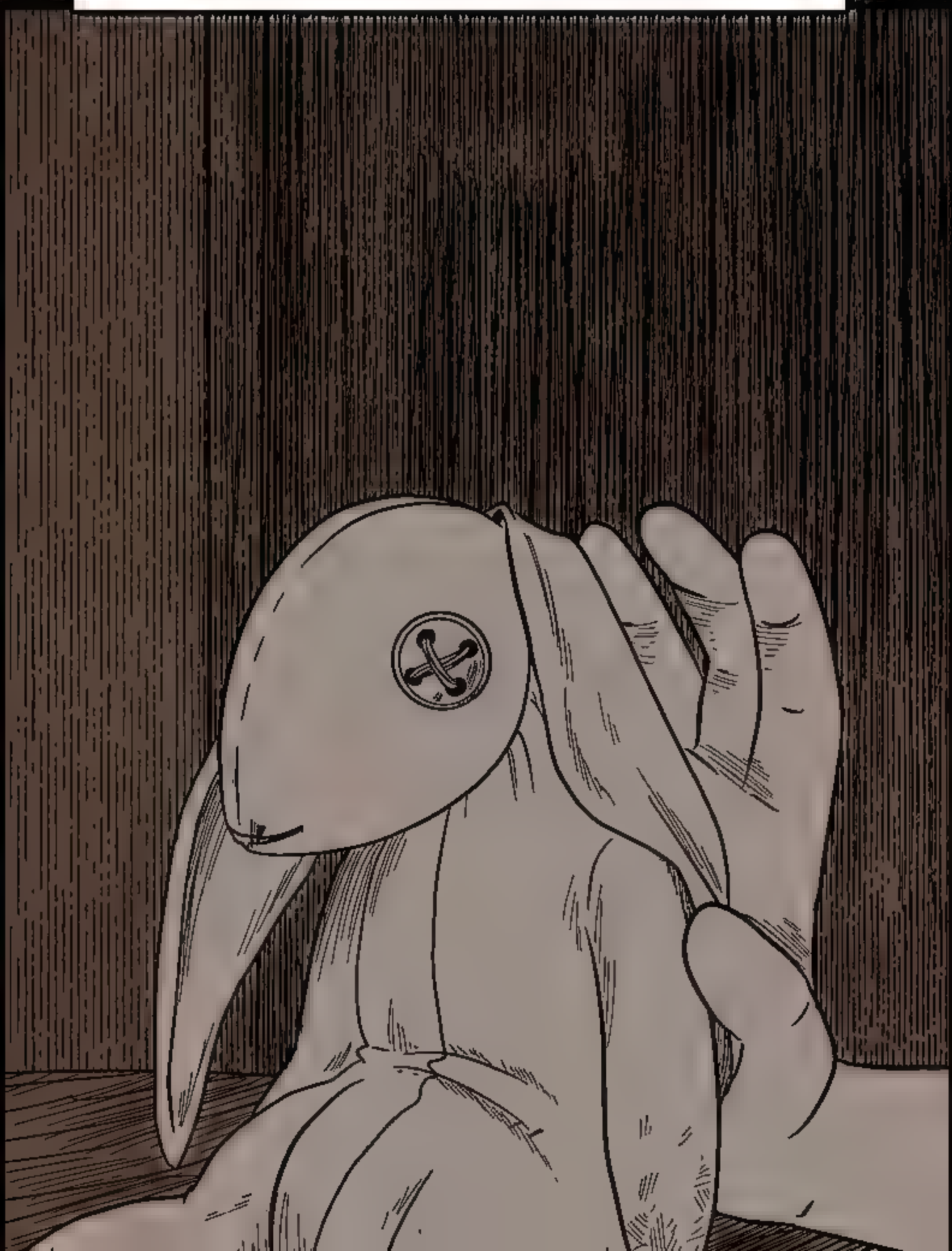
HE SAYS WE NEED THE MONEY VERY MUCH.

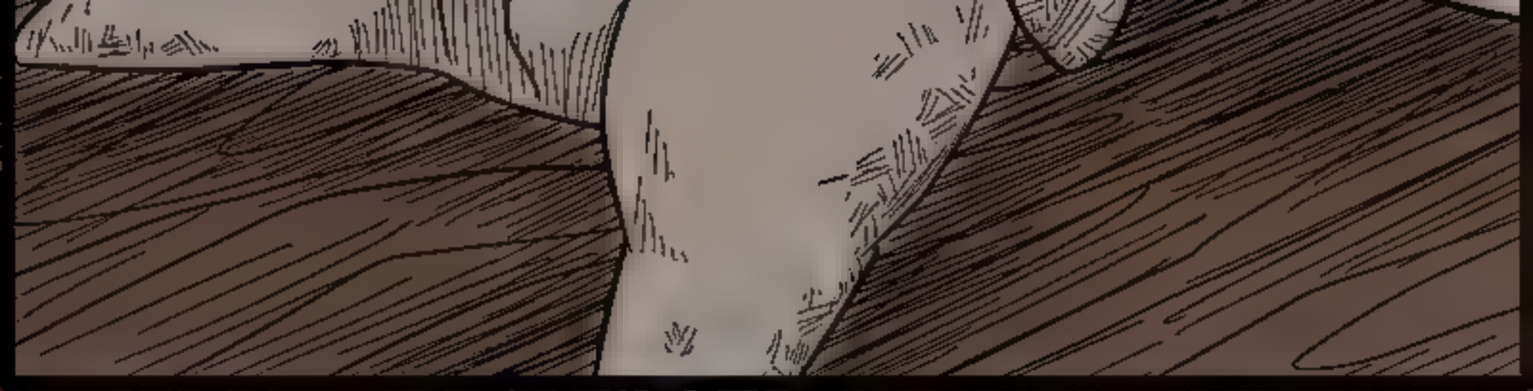

I OFFERED TO LET PAPA BORROW MY RABBIT FOR THE PARTY, AS HE IS WELL-BEHAVED.



MOST OF THE TIME.

HE WOULD DO A GOOD JOB OF SITTING ON THE SPINNING RIDE.



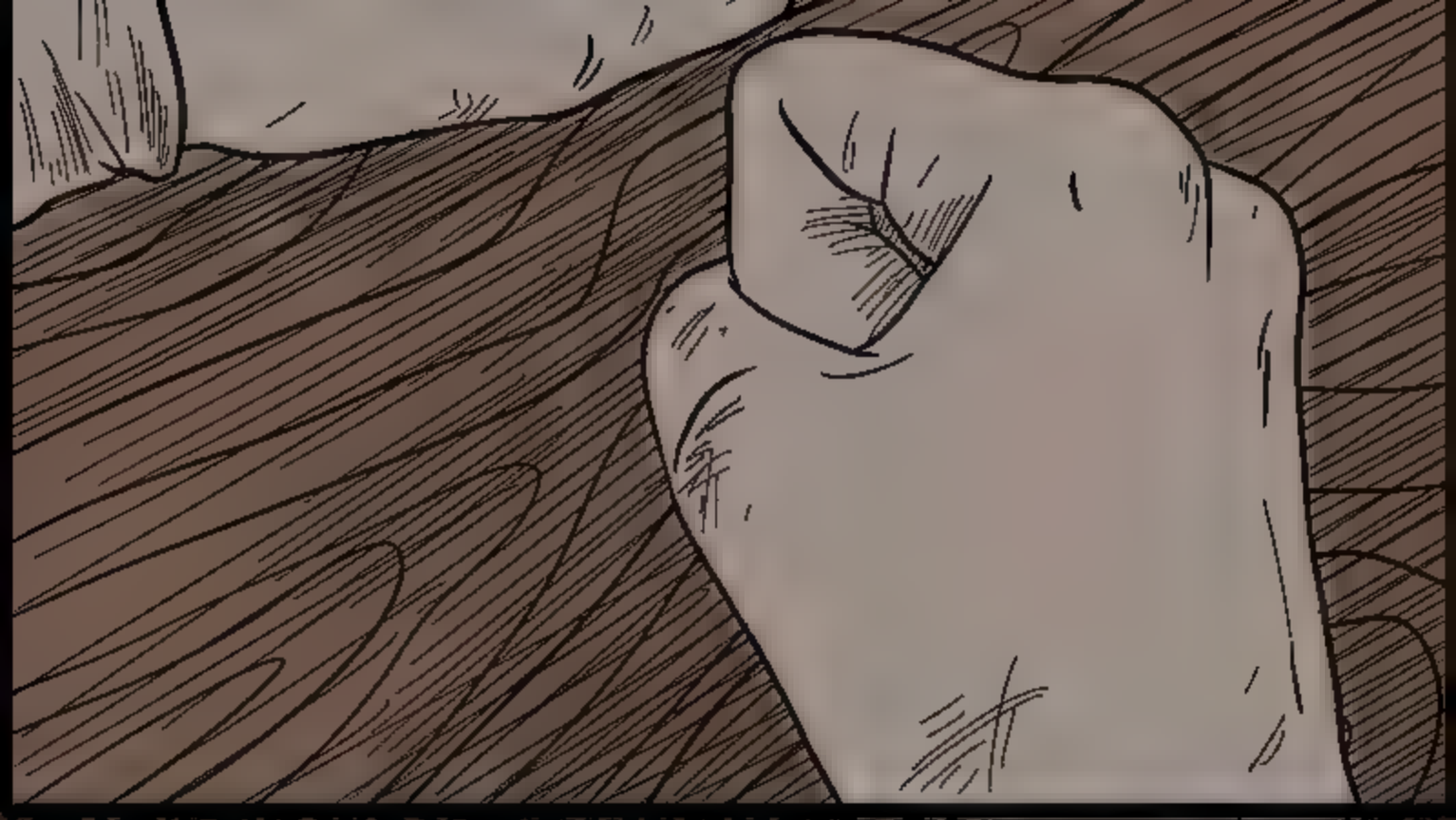


PAPA ONLY LAUGHED, AND SAID THAT BIGGER ANIMALS WERE NEEDED.

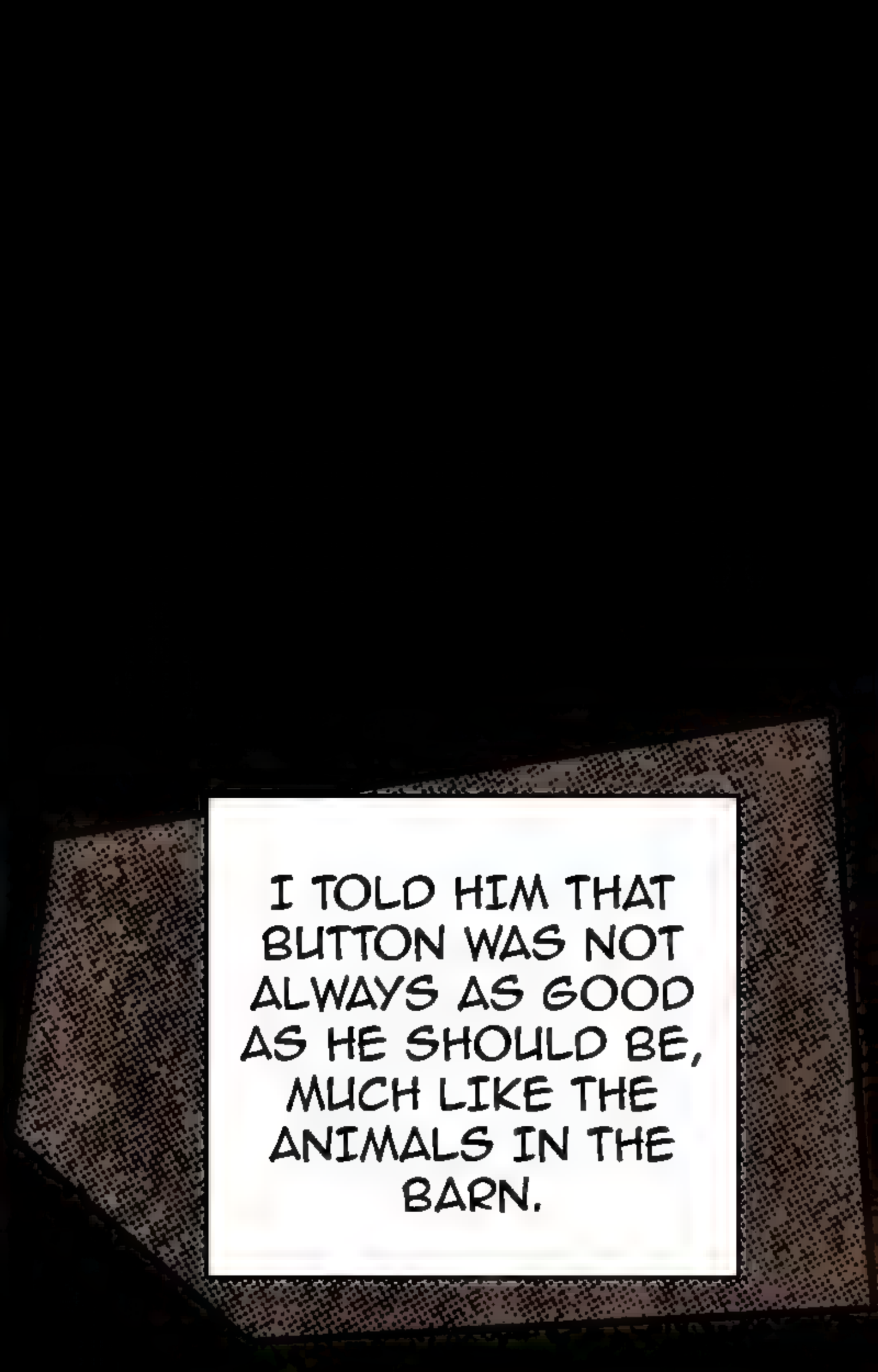
BUT HE WISHED THE ONES

BUT HE WISHED THE ONES HE HAD NOW WERE AS GOOD AS BUTTON.

HE SPOKE NICELY, BUT I COULD TELL HE WAS UPSET.



I FELT BAD FOR PAPA THEN.


I TOLD HIM THAT BUTTON WAS NOT ALWAYS AS GOOD AS HE SHOULD BE, MUCH LIKE THE ANIMALS IN THE BARN.

I TOLD HIM I SOMETIMES PLAY THAT BUTTON IS RIDING A RAFT DOWN A RIVER, AS

I PULL HIM ALONG.

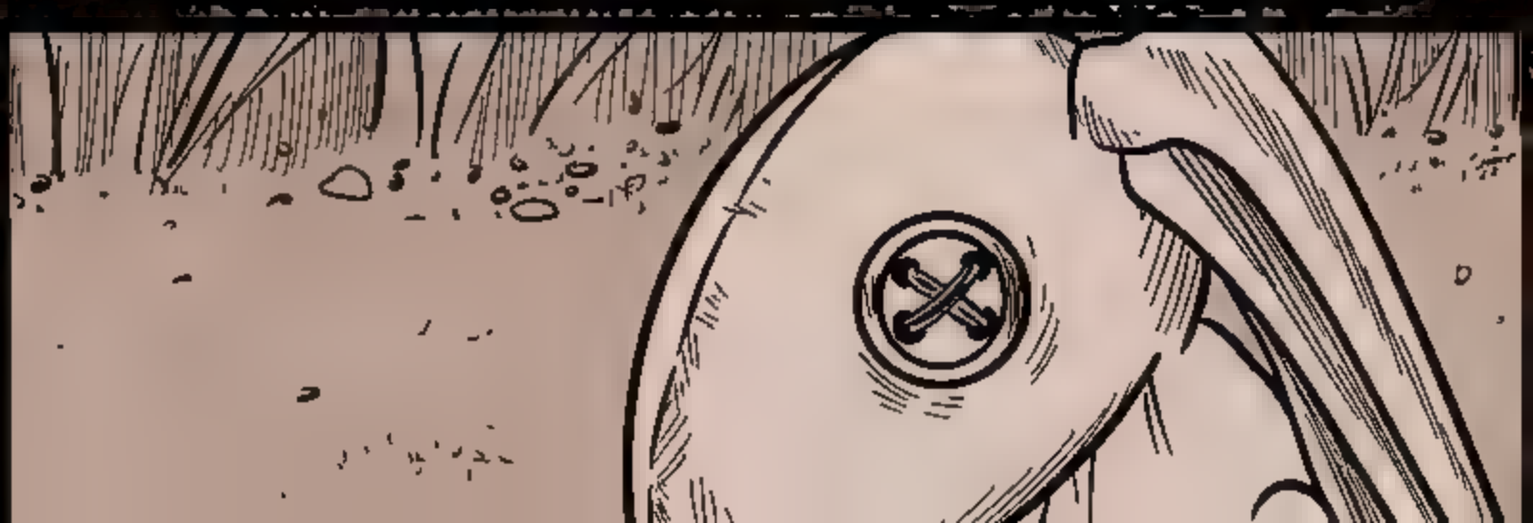
I MADE THE RAFT OUT OF SOME SMALL STICKS TIED TOGETHER.

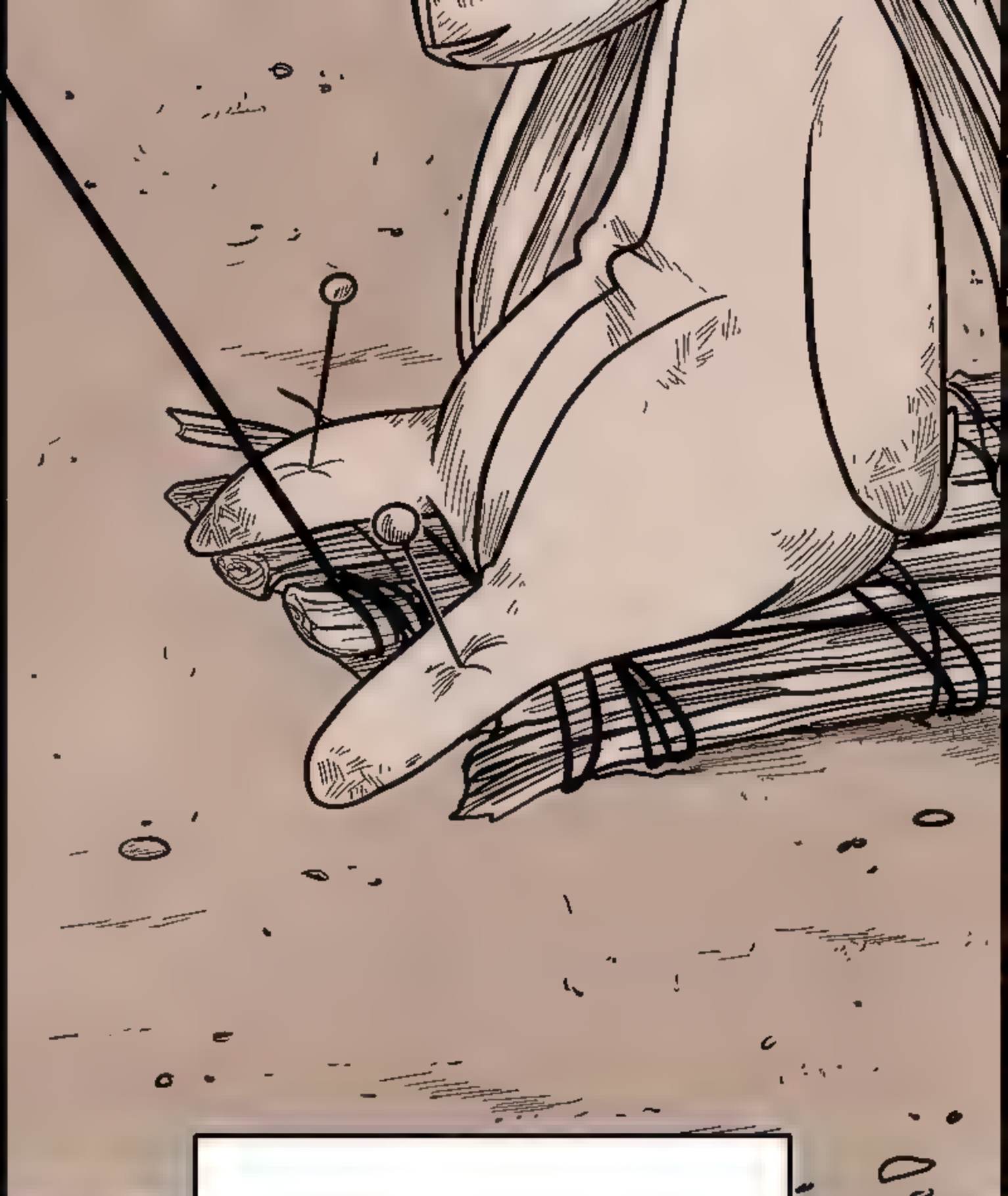
BUT SOMETIMES HE WILL GET CROSS WITH ME, AND FALL OFF.

PAPA ASKED ME,

"HOW DO YOU GET HIM TO BEHAVE WHEN HE IS BEING SO NAUGHTY?"

AND I TOLD HIM THAT I PUT MAMA'S SEWING PINS THROUGH HIS FEET, SO HE CANNOT FALL OFF.





THEN HE STAYS PUT.

AFTER HE HEARD THAT, PAPA PICKED UP BUTTON.

HE WAS VERY QUIET FOR SOME TIME.

AND THEN
HE SAID...

"MY GIRL...THAT'S NOT A BAD IDEA."